



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Bahrain Seven Years Later

Panel I



Husain Abdulla, originally from Bahrain, is the founder and Executive Director of Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain. As Executive Director, Husain leads the organization's efforts to ensure that U.S. policies support the democracy and human rights movement in Bahrain. Husain also works closely with members of the Bahraini-American community to ensure that their voices are heard by U.S.

government officials and the broader American public. Husain holds a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of West Florida and a BA in Political Science and Mathematics from the University of South Alabama.



Maryam Al-Khawaja, a Bahraini woman human rights defender, works as a consultant and trainer on human rights with NGOs, and serves on the board of multiple organizations. She previously served as Co-Director for the Gulf Center for Human Rights and as Acting President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights. Al-Khawaja played an instrumental role in Bahrain's democratic protests in February 2011, which triggered a government response of widespread killings, arrests, and torture. Due to her work, she has been subjected to assault, threats, defamation

campaigns, imprisonment and an unfair trial. Al-Khawaja is a leading voice for human rights and political reform in Bahrain and the Gulf region. She has been influential in shaping official responses to the atrocities in Bahrain around the world. Al-Khawaja has received numerous awards for her work, including the Rafto Prize. The Al-Khawaja family was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 by an EU Parliament Member.



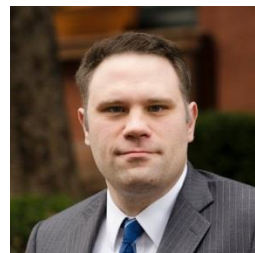
Andrea Prasow, Deputy Washington Director at Human Rights Watch, conducts advocacy before the US government on global human rights issues. Previously, as senior national security counsel and advocate for Human Rights Watch, Prasow investigated and analyzed US national security policies and practices, and led advocacy efforts urging executive and legislative branch officials to implement national security policies that respect internationally recognized rights. Prior to joining Human Rights

Watch, Prasow was a defense attorney with the Office of Military Commissions, and an associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York, where, in addition to representing large corporations in complex civil litigation, she served as habeas counsel for ten Saudi detainees at Guantanamo. Her work on behalf of Guantanamo detainees has taken her to Bahrain, Yemen and Afghanistan. Andrea holds a B.A. from the University of Toronto in political science and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.



Dwight Bashir is Director of Research and Policy at USCIRF. For more than 20 years, he has worked in the areas of religious freedom and U.S. policy, human rights advocacy, and conflict resolution. While at USCIRF, Dr. Bashir has led or participated in numerous fact-finding missions throughout the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. He serves as an expert on international religious freedom and the plight of religious minorities in the Middle East in the training of officials at the U.S.

Departments of State and Homeland Security. Dr. Bashir has been interviewed and his articles featured in major media outlets, blogs, and academic journals, and he lectures in the United States and globally on various topics in international affairs. Before joining USCIRF, Dr. Bashir worked with the United Nations and the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy on conflict prevention; a U.S. Department of State advisory body on religious intolerance and reconciliation; and other non-governmental organizations advocating international human rights.



Andrew Miller is POMED's Deputy Director for Policy. Andrew has nearly 10 years of experience working on the Middle East for the U.S. Government and has conducted extensive research on multiple countries in the region. From 2014 to 2017, Andrew served as the Director for Egypt and Israel Military Issues on the National Security Council (NSC), where he was responsible for coordinating U.S. policy towards these countries. While at the NSC, Andrew was deeply involved in the Obama Administration's efforts to modernize U.S. military assistance to Egypt and

participated as a member of the U.S. delegation that negotiated a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance to Israel. He also worked at the Department of State in a variety of policy and analytical roles related to the Middle East, serving in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, on the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff, and at the U.S. embassies in Doha and Cairo. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from Dickinson College and an M.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia.

Moderator



Brian Dooley is the author of several reports on human rights abuses in Bahrain for Human Rights First, where he is a Senior Advisor. He regularly writes for and is quoted in the international media on Bahrain issues, but has not been allowed into the kingdom since 2012. In 2013 he was denied entry with Congressman James McGovern (D-MA). He has worked on a variety of human rights issues for 25 years, and is the author of several books on U.S. political history. He first worked on Capitol Hill in 1984 as an intern to Senator Ted Kennedy, researching what eventually became the Anti-Apartheid Act.